

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Gray Davis, Governor
K. Maurice Johannessen, Secretary



CAL-VET LOANS – VETERANS HOMES – VETERANS SERVICES – WOMEN VETERANS
VETERANS CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS – VETS LICENSE PLATES

NEWS RELEASE

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VETERANS EXPERIENCES TO BECOME PART OF CURRICULUM FOR 7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – November 6, 2003–Governor Gray Davis recently signed AB 1537 (Wyland) that encourages that instruction on World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and more recent conflicts include personal testimonies in the form of oral and/or video histories.

“I commend the Legislature for taking this step,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs K. Maurice Johannessen. “Having young minds hear about the American experience of war from veterans of these wars will truly humanize these conflicts, thus painting a more real and tragic picture of what war is really like.”

This new law complements current law by encouraging social sciences instruction includes information on World War II and the American role in that war. Teachers should exemplify the personal sacrifice and courage of ordinary citizens who were called upon to participate in war. To assist them, AB 1537 provides the following recommendations:

- Personal testimony, especially in the form of oral or video history.
- Personal testimony by American soldiers who were involved in WWII and those men and women who contributed to the war effort on the home front.
- When using oral histories, the instructor will make sure these contain the views and comments of their subjects regarding the reasons for American participation in the war and the action taken to end the war in the Pacific.
- Instructors are encouraged to solicit comments regarding the aftermath of the war in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- AB 1537 also suggests that instruction on the Korean War and the Vietnam War draw from the personal testimony of American soldiers involved in those wars, by way of oral or video histories.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs provides California veterans and their families with aid and assistance in presenting their claims for veterans' benefits under the laws of the United States; provides them with beneficial opportunities through direct low-cost loans to acquire farms and homes; and provides the state's aged or disabled veterans with rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in home-like environments at the California Veterans Homes.

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